

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1-4, 6-12, 14 and 15 will remain pending in the application. Claims 1, 6, 7 and 9 will have been amended. Claims 5 and 13 will be canceled, and claims 16 and 17 will be newly added. Entry of the present amendment, reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the pending application in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Takai et al. (U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0029096). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for at least the following reasons.

Applicants' specification discloses a central control system that controls multiple air conditioners. The air conditioners include at least one outdoor device and a plurality of indoor devices. The central control system includes, inter alia, a central controller connected to the multiple air conditioners through a dedicated line, and a protocol converter that performs a communication protocol conversion of a signal. The central controller is connected to a network (such as, for example, an external network or Internet) to receive a control command for the multiple air conditioners. The central controller includes a signal storage device that stores the control command, a data storage device that stores data for accessing the network and IP address data, and a controller that controls the flow of signals transmitted and received through the network, and controls the protocol converter for performing a communication protocol conversion of a

signal.

According to one embodiment, the outdoor devices 200 are connected to the central controller 300 through the protocol converter 400 in a parallel arrangement, as shown, for example, in Applicants' Figure 2.

Takai et al. relates to an air conditioner management system. The system includes, inter alia, a personal computer 100, and a converter unit 200. See Figure 1 and paragraph 0025. The personal computer 100 is connected to the converter unit 200 via a universal serial bus (USB) 400. See Figure 1 and paragraph 0028. Takai discloses that the personal computer 100 is connected via the converter unit 200 to an air conditioner 300, which has a plurality of outdoor machines 301. See paragraphs 0025 and 0026.

In contrast to the control system Applicants describe in the present application, Applicants respectfully submit that Takai's outdoor machines 301 are not connected to the converter unit 200 via a parallel arrangement. Rather, Applicants submit that Takai's outdoor machines 301 connect to the converter unit 200 via a serial arrangement. See Figure 1, for example.

Applicants respectfully submit that Takai fails to disclose or suggest a central control system which includes a central controller including an Internet data storage device that stores data for accessing an Internet network and IP address data, as recited in independent claim 1.

Applicants respectfully submit that Takai also fails to disclose or suggest a method of operating a central control system which includes storing data for

accessing an Internet network and IP address data, as recited in independent claim 7.

Applicants respectfully submit that Takai also fails to disclose or suggest a central control system which includes a central controller including an data storage device that stores data for accessing an external network and IP address data, as recited in independent claim 9.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of independent claims 1, 7 and 9 is improper, and request withdrawal of these grounds of rejection.

Dependent claims 2-4, 6, 8, 10-12, 14 and 15 are also submitted to be in condition for allowance for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claims 1, 7 and 9.

In the Office Action, the Examiner also rejected claims 1-3, 5, 7-11, 13 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Meyer (U.S. Patent No. 6,157,943). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Meyer is directed to a facilities management system 10 which can be supervised from a secondary workstation 33. See col. 4, lines 7-17. The secondary workstation 33 is loaded with software to implement a Website 51. See Figure 3 and col. 4, lines 19-21. The Website 51 stores a plurality of files such as HTML and ASP files 53, image files 54, and Website configuration data 56.

In the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that Meyer's secondary Website 51 corresponds to Applicants' claimed signal storage device, Internet data storage device, and controller. See page 6 of the Office Action. However, in contrast to Applicants' disclosure, Applicants respectfully submit that Meyer does not suggest storing data for accessing an external network and IP address data.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Meyer fails to disclose or suggest a central control system which includes a central controller including an Internet data storage device that stores data for accessing an Internet network and IP address data, as recited in independent claim 1.

Applicants respectfully submit that Meyer also fails to disclose or suggest a method of operating a central control system which includes storing data for accessing an Internet network and IP address data, as recited in independent claim 7.

Applicants respectfully submit that Meyer also fails to disclose or suggest a central control system which includes a central controller including an data storage device that stores data for accessing an external network and IP address data, as recited in independent claim 9.

Further, Meyer is silent with respect to how devices connected to the network communicate with each other.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of independent claims 1, 7 and 9 is improper, and request withdrawal of this ground of rejection.

Dependent claims 2, 3, 8, 10, 11 and 15 are also submitted to be in condition for allowance for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claims 1, 7 and 9.

In the Office Action, the Examiner also rejected claims 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Masui et al. (U.S. Patent Publication 2003/0140637). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for at least the following reasons.

Masui et al. is directed to an air conditioner control system that includes a central remote controller 5. See Figure 1 and paragraph 0134. The central remote controller 5 includes a transmission means 6 connected to an outdoor unit 1 and indoor units 2. See Figure 1 and paragraph 0134.

Applicants respectfully submit that Masui fails to disclose or suggest a method of operating a central control system which includes storing data for accessing an Internet network and IP address data, as recited in independent claim 7.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection of independent claim 7 is improper, and request withdrawal of this ground of rejection.

Dependent claim 8 is also submitted to be in condition for allowance for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 7.

The Examiner rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meyer in view of Nakamura et al. (U.S. Patent Publication

2003/0033392). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for at least the following reasons.

As discussed above, Meyer fails to at least disclose or suggest a central control system which includes a central controller including an Internet data storage device that stores data for accessing an Internet network and IP address data, as recited in independent claim 1.

Applicants submit that Nakanura et al. fails to disclose that which is lacking in Meyer. Specifically, Applicants submit that Nakamura et al., which relates to an air conditioner and a control software updating system, also fails to disclose or suggest a central control system which includes a central controller including an Internet data storage device that stores data for accessing an Internet network and IP address data.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Meyer and Nakamura et al., as asserted by the Examiner, fails to at least disclose or suggest a central control system which includes a central controller including an Internet data storage device that stores data for accessing an Internet network and IP address data.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the invention of claim 4 is not obvious over the prior art combination set forth by the Examiner, and thus request that the Examiner withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claim 4 as being obvious over Meyer in view of Nakamura et al.

Newly added dependent claims 16 and 17 recite that the central controller is connected to the multiple air conditioners via a parallel connection. Applicants

respectfully submit that the applied prior art fails to disclose or suggest this feature. Thus, these claims are submitted to be allowable for at least this additional reason.

Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicants recognize that the current status of the present application is after-Final. However, Applicants submit that entry of the amendment is proper in the present circumstances, as the amendment does not raise new issues requiring further consideration and/or search.

Entry and consideration of the present amendment, reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action, and allowance of the present application and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate. Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present invention in condition for allowance and believe that they have now done so.

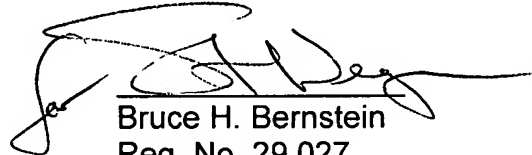
Any amendment to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should an extension of time be necessary to maintain the pendency of this application, including any extensions of time required to place the application in condition for allowance by an Examiner's Amendment, the Commissioner is

hereby authorized to charge any additional fee to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sang Chul YOON et al.



Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

Steven Wegman
Reg. No. 31,438

November 1, 2005
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191